(a) whether a number of telecom carriers of the world are owing a huge amount to VSNL;

(b) if so, the details of the carriers and the amounts due upto the 30th June, 2002, on each carriers; and

(c) the amount which the international telecom carriers owe to VSNL upto the 30th June, 2002 and since when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Sir, with the sale of 25% of Government's equity in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited to M/s. Panatone Finvest Ltd., a Tata group company, and handing over the management control to the strategic partner, the company has been privatised *w.e.f.* 13-2-2002.

Suspension of practical industrial training by VSNL

2345. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited has suspended the practical industrial training being given to engineering students in between, without assigning any reasons thus causing harassment to a large number of students;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what would be the fate of the students who could not complete their practical training and in what manner Government propose to compensate such students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Sir, with the sale of 25% of Government's equity in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited to M/s. Panatone Finvest Ltd., a Tata group company, and handing over the management control to the strategic partner, the company has been privatised *w.e.f.* 13-2-2002.